REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been amended. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 3 and 6-8. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kumano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,023). Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumano et al. in view of Dodds et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,273,017) or Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,158,003). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumano et al. in view of Monte et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,003,859). With respect to these claims, some of which have been amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Support for Applicants' argument is detailed below.

The present invention is directed to an electric keyboard assembly that includes white keys, black keys, and pivoting mass members associated with the white keys and the black keys. The mass members each have a first arm and a second arm. Distinct weight members are carried separately by the first and second arms of each of the mass members, and have respective weights thereof set separately from each other. The separately carried weight members allow the keyboard assembly to have a reduced height of a keyboard, and allow the inertia to be adjusted so as to have a uniform key-touch response between each adjacent white and black keys.

In another embodiment of the invention, to easily accomplish key scaling to key-touch responses, a plurality of combinations of weights of the first and second weight members are set for plural octave sections, and the mass members of each of the octave sections are identical in configuration with each other.

In another embodiment of the invention, the first and second weight members are formed of a sheet member, so that the combination of weights of the weight members can be set as desired.

Kumano does not disclose distinct weight members which are carried separately by a first arm and a second arm of each of mass members, as set forth in amended Claim 2. Kumano discloses an arm main body 55a which forms a mass body arm 55. The arm main body 55a has a weight member 55b at the rear end thereof, and has a movable section 55d at the front end thereof. The arm main body 55a, however, has no distinct weight member at the front end thereof. Of

course, as noted by the Examiner, the movable section 55d has an inherent weight or mass. However, the movable section 55d is an integral part of the arm main body 55a. There is no distinct weight member in each of the arms, as set forth in Claim 2. Rather, there is only one weight member 55b which is fixed only to one arm of the mass member 55 (see col. 23, lines 1-44; FIG. 21). Therefore the mass member of Kumano does not allow adjustment of the moment of inertia of the two arms by providing various combinations of distinct weight members. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 2 is not anticipated by nor obvious in view of Kumano.

With respect to amended Claims 1 and 4, neither Dodds nor Lee make up for the deficiencies of Kumano. Neither Dodds nor Lee disclose weight members which are carried separately by a first arm and a second arm of each of mass members, as set forth in amended Claims 1 and 4. Furthermore, neither Dodds nor Lee disclose "a plurality of combinations of weights of said first and second insert weight members to be mounted in said first and second arms, respectively, are set between said ones of said plurality of mass members for said plurality of octave sections, while said mass members of each of the octave sections are identical in configuration with each other" as defined in amended Claim 4. Accordingly, amended Claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Kumano in view of Dodds. or Lee.

With respect to Claim 5, Monte also does not make up for the deficiencies of Kumano. Monte does not disclose first and second weight members which are formed of a sheet member, as defined in Claim 5. Monte discloses a weight 128 which is not a weight member mounted to a see-saw mass member as set forth in the claims, but rather is mounted on a key 24.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032023000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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